

FEMA Director Emphasizes Incident Command System Training and Use During Emergencies

Training is available online and in classroom-based formats for emergency response/management disciplines

Washington, DC – Chief R. David Paulison, Acting Director of FEMA, emphasizes the need for everyone involved in emergency response and management to be trained in the Incident Command System (ICS) and be able to use it during an emergency. “The basis for command and management of all types of emergency incidents under the National Incident Management System is ICS,” says Paulison. “The responses to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma have shown that it is critical for emergency personnel at all levels of government to understand ICS and be able to perform within the system at the appropriate level.”

The NIMS requires that ICS training be modeled around four levels – ICS 100 (Introduction to ICS), ICS-200 (Basic ICS), ICS-300 (Intermediate ICS), and ICS-400 (Advanced ICS). Specific learning objectives for these training levels were developed cooperatively by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, U.S. Fire Administration’s National Fire Programs Branch, FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute; and are published in the NIMS National Standard Curriculum Training Guidance. The NIMS Integration Center recently announced that training equivalent to ICS-100 and ICS-200 is required for all emergency response and emergency management personnel by September 30, 2006 in order for their department or agency to be available for Federal preparedness funds.

There are several on-line and classroom ICS courses available that meet NIMS ICS training requirements. On the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) Virtual Campus (www.training.fema.gov), there are ICS courses tailored for specific roles and disciplines. For example, firefighters, EMS providers, and other emergency response personnel should take:

Q462: ICS-100, Introduction to ICS for Operational First Responders

Q463: ICS-200, Basic ICS for Operational First Responders

Some of the other discipline-specific ICS classes available on the NETC virtual campus include ICS-100 and ICS-200 equivalent classes for law enforcement, public works, public health, and hospital personnel and Federal workers. These courses are also downloadable for delivery in a classroom format. Fire and EMS managers should encourage managers from law enforcement, public works, and public health departments and hospitals to have their employees complete these or other discipline-specific ICS courses meeting NIMS requirements.

The National Fire Academy has also has two classroom-based courses that meet the NIMS requirements for ICS-100 and ICS-200, and are delivered through State fire and EMS training agencies and metropolitan fire departments:

NIMS ICS for the Fire Service

NIMS ICS for Emergency Medical Services

Additional information on ICS training for operational responders is available at www.usfa.fema.gov. Additional information in NIMS ICS training requirements is available at www.fema.gov/nims.